

Bioterrorism Update for LPAC Meeting October 10, 2013

2013 CAP LPX-A results: All of our sentinel laboratories properly identified the BT agents present in this survey and passed the packaging and shipping of a select agent exercise. Packages were graded and returned at the spring LPAC meeting or through the DPHL couriers. The organisms present were:

LPX-01: *Francisella tularensis*

LPX-03: *Bacillus anthracis*

In April of 2013, DPHL participated in a statewide preparedness exercise using the select agent *Bacillus anthracis* as the BT agent of interest. Both Beebe and A.I.DuPont laboratories agreed to work with DPHL and submitted “simulated” clinical specimens (blood tubes) for preparedness testing. The requirements for submission of clinical specimens for preparedness testing are more encompassing than the forms needed for rule-out isolates.

As a result of the exercise, it was determined that a drill was needed to prepare sentinel laboratories and DPHL staff for the possibility of a real event where specimens submitted for testing could be isolates **or** clinical specimens. Many of the BT forms used by sentinel laboratories and DPHL were revised and streamlined to create user friendly forms. Starting in October 2013, after the completion of the CAP LPX-B survey, DPHL will add this BT clinical specimen exercise to our required measures for the BT grant. Beebe and A.I.duPont are exempt from this year’s BT clinical specimen exercise as they participated in the April 2013 statewide preparedness exercise.

The following website links were distributed during the last LPAC meeting and have been updated with the newest forms. All of these sites can be reached from www.delaware.gov. However, if you need a particular area of information, these are direct links.

DPHL home: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/lab/labs.html>

Preparedness: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/lab/labprep.html>

BT Collection Procedure: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/lab/files/btspeccoll.pdf>

LPAC meeting information: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/lab/LPAC.html>

Preparedness Call Log for Rule Out Isolates:

<http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/lab/files/phpscalllog.pdf>

When the BT clinical specimen exercise is complete, visits will be scheduled in November with the sentinel laboratories to discuss and review the exercise and any other pertinent information